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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE



URBAN DISTRICT

OF

HONLEY

FOR 1937.

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Honley Urban District.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

In presenting my annual report for the year 1937 I have complied with the instructions and form laid down in Circular 1650 of the Ministry of Health, dated 4th October, 1937.

APPENDIX I.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	1,915 acres.
Population (estimated 1937)	4,462
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,528
Rateable Value	£23,242
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£91

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	Total.	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS	62	32	30
Legitimate	62	32	30
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Birth Rate 13.89 per 1,000 population.			
STILL BIRTHS	2	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births, 31.25.			
DEATHS	62	25	37
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population			13.89
Adjusted ,, ,, ,,			14.16

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
Deaths from Puerperal Causes...	1	15.62
From Puerperal Sepsis...	1	15.62
From other Puerperal Causes..	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	48.38
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	48.38
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	9

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council:

A 1. FEVER.—These cases are treated at the Colne and Holme Infectious Diseases Hospital at Meltham.

2. SMALL POX.—Provision for the treatment of Small Pox is made at the special hospital for this disease situate at Moor Top. Solitary cases of Small Pox have been sent to the Huddersfield Corporation Small Pox Hospital at Mill Hill, by arrangement with the Huddersfield Medical Officer of Health.

B 1. TUBERCULOSIS. — Sanatorium treatment of Tuberculosis is carried out in the various West Riding County Council Sanatoria.

2. MATERNITY.—No special provision.

3. CHILDREN.—No special provision.

4. ORTHOPÆDIC.—No special provision.

5. GENERAL.—The General Hospital for the district is the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, four miles away. This institution is supported by endowment and voluntary subscriptions.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children in the district.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Cases.—From the Isolation Hospital.

(b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases. —From Huddersfield.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Such work as is done in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (consultation and treatment) and School Clinics is carried out by the West Riding County Council Officials. They also conduct the Tuberculosis Dispensary at Huddersfield. The treatment centre for Venereal Disease is the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

There are no Day Nurseries, Orthopædic Clinics or Artificial Light Clinics in the area.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

These consist of a part-time Medical Officer of Health and a part-time Sanitary Inspector. The Sanitary Inspector is also the Surveyor of the District. There are two scavengers employed by the Council, and one motor driver, who assists with the work.

The food inspectors, health visitors, and special nurses are provided by the West Riding County Council.

Nursing in the Home.

(a) General.—There is one District Nurse in the area. The fund to meet her expenses is maintained partly by endowment and partly by voluntary subscriptions, and is managed by a local committee. A nurse employed by the County Council also visits the area.

Private nurses can be obtained from the nursing homes of Huddersfield, Leeds, etc.

(b) For Infectious Diseases (Measles, etc.) —If necessary during a severe epidemic a nurse will be provided by arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health.

Midwives.

There is no District Maternity Nurse as such in the Council's area; this work is undertaken by the General District Nurse, who is also a certified midwife. There is one other certificated midwife resident in the district who takes cases privately.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are no Maternity or Nursing Homes in the district.

Maternal Mortality.

The investigation of maternal deaths and cases of puerperal fever is carried out by co-operation between the medical practitioner in charge of the case and the Medical Officer of Health. If necessary, a specialist's opinion can be obtained through the County Medical Officer of Health.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The undermentioned is a list of the Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, etc., in force in the District.

Bye-laws and regulations for the administration of the district were passed on November 23rd, 1914, and received the consent of the Local Government Board February 1st, 1915.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Parts 1, 2 and 3) was adopted by the Council on November 1st, 1891.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Parts 2 and 6 and Sec. 95 of Part 10) was adopted by the Council, and by an Order of the Local Government Board, dated the 4th November, 1912, declared to be in force in the Honley Urban District on and after the 23rd December, 1912.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The main water supply of the district from Huddersfield and Batley Corporations has been satisfactory in both quantity and quality. There have been no restrictions. Only short extensions from the mains to new houses have been made during 1937. Six analyses of water from private supplies have been made during the year. Three of these were satisfactory, two unsatisfactory, and one of doubtful purity.

Rivers and Streams.

These are under the supervision of the West Riding Rivers Board. No action has been required of the Local Authority to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No important alterations or extensions have been made to the sewerage system of the district during 1937. Twenty yards of 9in. stoneware pipe sewers have been laid in Meltham Road for the development of building land.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year two privy middens have been converted to water closets and two additional water closets provided for old property. Eleven tub closets have been reconstructed as water closets. The Council make a grant of £5 towards the cost of each tub closet converted or half the cost of conversion, whichever is the least. Twenty-two water closets have also been provided for new property. The total sanitary accommodation of the district is now 65 privy middens, 169 tub closets, and 1,216 water closets.

Scavenging.

This has been carried out efficiently For details see Sanitary Inspector's report.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

May, 1938.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

Nuisance Inspections.

During the year 80 nuisance inspections were made. Twenty-five nuisances were found and 25 informal notices were served upon the persons concerned. There were no statutory notices served during the year. At the end of the year three nuisances were still unabated.

Offensive Trades.

There are two tallow chandlers in the district. These premises have been inspected and on each occasion were found to be in a clean condition.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Meltham Road sewer has been extended for a distance of 18 yards for the purpose of serving new houses.

Closet Accommodation.

During 1937, 11 tub closets have been converted to the water carriage system, and two privy middens have been abolished. The closet accommodation in the district comprises 1,216 water closets (an increase of 36 over last year), 169 tub closets (36 of which are attached to workshops, and 133 for dwelling-houses). Of the 169 tubs, 128 could be replaced by water closets. A sewer is not available for the remaining 38. There are 65 privies attached to 56 privy middens; 13 of these middens could be abolished and water closets provided. The remaining 43 are attached to the isolated properties throughout the district.

Scavenging.

The following is a table of the work done during the year:

No. of tubs emptied	9,053
No. of dust-bins emptied	29,468
No. of ash-pits emptied	897
No. of privies emptied	240
Loads of rubbish	1,244
Loads destroyed at destructor... ...	909

The adjoining authorities have continued to use the destructor for the disposal of diseased meat.

Water Supply.

One thousand four hundred and seventy-seven houses have a public water supply, the distribution of which is carried out by the Huddersfield and Batley Corporations. The remainder of the houses, chiefly farms and farm cottages, are supplied by springs or wells.

Six samples of the private water supplies were taken for analysis; three proved satisfactory, two unsatisfactory, and one doubtful. The two unsatisfactory samples were taken from property at Hope Bank. The owner of this property has appeared before the Council on two occasions, but no alteration has yet been made to the water supply.

Milk.

There are 18 cowkeepers, five wholesale dealers, and 16 milk sellers registered in the district. The approximate number of milk

cows is 300. Seven farms in the area are registered for the production of "accredited" milk. Fifty-one inspections of cowsheds have been made.

Slaughterhouses.

Weekly visits have been made to the four registered slaughterhouses, and three beasts' carcases, two beasts' heads, one tongue and one liver, and one fore-quarter of mutton have been condemned and surrendered as unfit for food.

Factories and Workshops.

Thirty inspections were made and unsuitable sanitary accommodation found in six cases, two of which have been remedied. Twelve smoke observations were taken, three of which showed excessive emision of black smoke, and cautions were issued in respect of these.

Dinisfections.

Disinfection was carried out at 13 houses and one school.

Housing.

Total number of houses in the district, 1,528. Particulars of inspections are given in the Medical Officer's Report.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,
Your obedient servant,

H. PARKINSON,
Sanitary Inspector.

Shops.

Seven inspections were paid under the Shops Act, 1934, and conditions found to me satisfactory.

Smoke Abatement.

Twelve smoke observations have been taken during the year and three cautions given. No legal action has been taken by the Local Authority.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws.

There are two registered tallow-chandlers in the district. These have been inspected twice and found well kept.

Arrangements for Disposal of the Dead.

The mortuary at Calf Croft is capable of accommodating two bodies. This has been fitted out so that post mortem examinations can be made there.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are none in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action has been required.

Schools.

The schools in the district have been inspected by me and found clean. The sanitary conditions and water supply is adequate. It has not been necessary to close the schools for infectious disease. The school children are periodically inspected by the County Authorities.

Rag Flocks Act, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the district to which these Acts apply.

HOUSING.

Number of new Houses erected during the year :—

(a) By the Local Authority 0
(b) By private enterprise 22

Total 22

1—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) a—Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts 146
b—Number of inspections made for the purpose 185

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing and Consolidated Regulations 22

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation 30

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 14

2—Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 14

3—Action under Statutory Powers.

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice 0
(a) By owners 0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(B) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice 0
(a) By owners 0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 1

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 1

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms. the closing orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or rooms having been verified fit 0

4—Housing Act, 1935 : Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 7

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 7

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein—33 adults; 19 under 10 years of age.

(b) Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year 1

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 7

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

(e) Any other particulars Nil

Housing.

During 1937 the re-survey of the district begun in 1936 was continued. Between 40 and 50 houses were brought to the notice of the Council, and these were inspected by the Housing Sub-Committee. As a result of this, formal representations were made in respect of 30 houses found to be totally unfit for human habitation. Five areas were declared to be Clearance Areas, comprising 27 of these houses, situated at: Berrycroft, three houses; Eastgate, four houses; Lower Fold, Upper Fold, and France Hill, six houses; Banks, 10 houses; and Smithy Place, four houses. The population of these areas is 72. Clearance Orders have been made in respect of these areas, and are awaiting the Ministry's confirmation. Two Demolition Orders were made in respect of two houses at Upper Fold. One Closing Order was made on a house at New Street, which had previously been dealt with under the 1930 Act, the owner having first agreed to repair the house and then later decided not to relet it for human habitation.

The position at the end of 1937 in regard to the houses dealt with under the 1930 and 1936 Housing Acts is: Clearance Orders made, five, comprising 27 houses. Clearance Orders outstanding, five. Demolition Orders made, 10. Houses demolished, four; Demolition Orders outstanding, six. Closing Orders made, eight; complied with, seven; Closing Orders outstanding, one. Undertakings accepted from owners to render houses fit, seven; undertakings carried out, seven.

In addition to these houses dealt with by formal action, 14 informal notices were served on the owners of houses found not to be reasonably fit in all respects for human habitation, and by the end of the year these had all been rendered fit.

Re-housing.

During 1937 the Council at last acquired a housing site, situated between Bradshaw Road and Meltham Road. This will accommodate 76 houses if necessary. The Council decided to build 34 houses to provide accommodation for tenants displaced from Clearance Areas and also to abate overcrowding under the 1935 Act. These houses are in course of erection.

Shortage of Houses.

During the year 22 houses have been built by private enterprise. Eight of these were built by the local Co-operative Society at Brockholes. I do not think there is any real shortage of houses in the district, unless it is for modern working class houses at low rents.

Overcrowding.

There were seven cases of overcrowding in the district unrelieved at the end of 1936. One of these cases removed to another district during the year, but another case of overcrowding was reported in the district. At the end of the year there were still seven cases of overcrowding, consisting of 33 adults and 19 children under 10 years of age. The Council have houses in course of erection at present to accommodate these families.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The milk supply to the district is satisfactory in quantity. Seven licences have been granted to milk producers under the Accredited Milk Scheme. Twenty-three samples of milk were examined by the County Officials under this scheme, of which 18 samples were found to be satisfactory and five unsatisfactory. Inspection of all farms and dairies is carried out several times a year by the County Veterinary Officer in conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector. As a result of this, five tubercular cows were discovered and slaughtered. Otherwise the cows have been free from disease and in good condition. Some of the cowsheds still fall short of the requirements, but conditions are improving.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Meat.—The slaughter houses have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and found to be in order. Other foods are inspected by the County Council officials. No action has been taken.

(c) Adulteration, etc.

No action has been taken by the Local Authority under these Acts.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This is done by the County Council or examinations may be carried out by the Huddersfield Public Analyst for the Local Authority.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

General.

No special action has been required in regard to the diseases notifiable under the Regulations of 19th October, 1927.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are sent to the West Riding County

Laboratory at Wakefield, when necessary, by the medical practitioner in charge of the case.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Local Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

The premises occupied by all cases of infectious disease and all articles exposed to infection are disinfected by the Local Authority.

The tips are now free from rats.

Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Seventeen cases of infectious disease have been notified during 1937, compared with 15 in 1936 and 31 in 1935. These were comprised as follows: Scarlet Fever, 6; Pneumonia, 5; Diphtheria, Erysipelas and Puerperal Pyrexia, 2 each.

Scarlet Fever.

Two of the six cases of Scarlet Fever were in adults. All were isolated in hospital and recovered.

Diphtheria.

One of the two cases was an adult, who was isolated in hospital. The other was a mild case in a school child who was isolated at home.

During September I immunised 14 children against Diphtheria at a clinic held at the Honley C. of E. School, available to any children in the district.

Pneumonia.

Two of the five cases of Pneumonia were due to Influenza.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Two cases were notified during the year. One was a very mild case, treated at home. The other, a more serious case, was removed to hospital and died. I should like to point out that the District Midwife in this area is still engaged in the duties of a General District Nurse under the Local Nursing Committee, a practice which is contrary to all modern teaching.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Disease.

There was a widespread Influenza epidemic during January.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken or been required under Section 66 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or treatment of persons suffering from disease or injury of the eyes.

Opthalmic Neonatorum.

No cases of this disease have occurred during 1937.

HONLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the Year, 1937.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 3 years.	3 to 4 years.	4 to 5 years.	5 to 10 years.	10 to 15 years.	15 to 20 years.	20 to 35 years.	35 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years	Over 65 years.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	6	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	..	1	..	..	6	1
Pneumonia	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	5
Diphtheria	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1
Totals	17	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	4	0	2	2	3	9	7

Hospital for the Treatment of Infectious Diseases—
The Colne and Holme Joint Isolation Hospital at Meltham.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Three fresh cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were three deaths from non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. For particulars of ages, etc., see table.

HONLEY URBAN DISTRICT.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year								
1 to 5 years								1
5 ,, 10								
10 ,, 15								
15 ,, 20		2						1
20 ,, 25								
25 ,, 35								
35 ,, 45	1							
45 ,, 55				1				
55 ,, 65								
Over 65 ,,								
Totals	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	3

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925, relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action was taken under this section of the Act.

APPENDIX II.

Statistics provided by the Registrar General.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Year	No. of Births.	Birth Rate per 1000.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1000.	Deaths under 1 yr.	Rate per 1000 Births.
1933..	54	11.99	70	15.55	0	0
1934.....	59	13.08	56	12.42	0	0
1935.....	54	12.22	69	15.33	3	55.5
1936.....	57	12.82	79	17.77	3	52.63
1937.....	62	13.89	62	13.89	3	48.38

Births.

Sixty-two births were registered during the year, of which 32 were males and 30 females. There were no illegitimate births. The birth rate is 13.89 per 1,000 population, compared with a birth rate of 14.9 for England and Wales. Two still births, one male and one female, were registered during the year, both legitimate. This gives a still birth rate of 31.25 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths.

Sixty-two deaths have been registered, of which 25 were males and 37 females. Twenty-one of these deaths occurred outside the district amongst persons belonging to the district and were transferred into the district for burial. Fifteen deaths took place in Public Institutions. The crude death rate is 13.89 per 1,000 population, a big decrease from 1936. The adjusted death rate is 14.16 per 1,000 population, compared with a death rate of 12.4 for the whole of England and Wales.

Ages at Death.

Thirty-nine of the sixty-two deaths were amongst persons over the age of 65 years, and 12 amongst persons aged between 45 and 65 years.

Causes of Death.

The chief causes of death have been Heart Disease, 12; Cancer, 9; Pneumonia, 7; Bronchitis, 5; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 4; Nephritis, 4. For other causes of death see Registrar General's list.

Infant Mortality.

There were three deaths amongst infants under one year of age, two males and one female; all legitimate. The causes of death were: Congenital Abnormalities, 2; Broncho Pneumonia, 1. This gives an infant mortality rate of 48.38 per 1,000 live births, compared with a rate of 58 for England and Wales.

Deaths due to or following Childbirth.

There was one death from Puerperal causes —from Puerperal Sepsis—during the year. The total maternal mortality rate is 15.62 per 1,000 total births, compared with a rate of 3.11 for England and Wales. The maternal mortality rate from Puerperal Sepsis is 15.62, compared with a rate of 0.94 for England and Wales.

Causes of Death in 1937.

The Registrar General's list of causes of death is as stated below:

Causes of Death.	M	F.
Typhoid Fever		
Measles		
Scarlet Fever	0	1
Whooping Cough		
Diphtheria		
Influenza	2	1
Encephalitis Lethargica		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever		
Respiratory Tuberculosis		
Other Tuberculosis	0	3
Syphillis		
Gen. Paralysis of Insane, etc.		
Cancer	5	4
Diabetes	2	0
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	3
Heart Disease	1	11
Aneurysm		
Other Circulatory	2	1
Bronchitis	2	3
Pneumonia	4	3
Other Respiratory		
Peptic Ulcer		
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)		
Appendicitis		
Cirrhosis of Liver		
Other Liver Diseases		
Other Digestive		
Nephritis	3	1
Puerperal Sepsis	0	1
Other Puerperal		
Congenital Causes, etc.	1	1
Senility	0	1
Suicide		
Other Violence		
Other Defined Causes	2	3
Ill-defined Causes		
All Causes ...	25	37

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman and Councillors,
Your obedient servant,

T. S. DAVY, M.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.